

This is an issue that is very personal to me. Nine years ago, my cousin, Dr. Robin Lynn Mitchell, my namesake, was murdered in her sleep by her husband in an act of domestic violence. A few months later, a campaign volunteer of mine, Velton Lacefield, was shot and killed by her husband in a similar crime.

Their stories, however heart-breaking, are, unfortunately, not unique. These tragedies play out over and over every day in our communities across America. The National Network to End Domestic Violence estimates that three women are killed each day as a result of domestic violence. It touches just about every home, no matter your ZIP code or your income bracket. Nearly three-quarters of Americans know a victim of domestic violence.

But that is just the human toll. Domestic violence also costs the U.S. economy over \$8 billion annually in emergency room visits, mental health services, and lost productivity.

So as we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month, let's commit ourselves to working to put an end to these tragedies, for Robin, for Velton, for all of us.

#### THE OFFER STILL STANDS

(Mr. McCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, after two previous attempts to keep the government fully funded, House Republicans adopted a measure that fully funded the government, fully funded ObamaCare, but simply delayed the individual mandate for a year. Now, this proposal was summarily rejected by House and Senate Democrats, and the government shut down.

Now, I can understand why they might take that position. They actually thought the exchanges would work, but they haven't worked. They have been a complete and unmitigated disaster. And after more than 3 years and \$600 million of development costs, they are far, far from being ready.

So, with this new experience, what is so unreasonable about delaying the mandate for a year while these problems are addressed?

This should be a win-win for everyone—reopen the government and give the Democrats' signature program 1 year's reprieve from complete collapse. That is what Republicans offered on September 30, and that offer still stands.

#### HOW THE GOVERNMENT SHUT-DOWN IS HARMING THE PEOPLE OF HOUSTON

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate my-

self with the remarks of my colleague and classmate from South Carolina on how we will miss Chairman YOUNG. He has been a great statesman in serving our House.

But today I am here to talk about how we are 10 days into the Republican shutdown of the government services. Every week the shutdown continues cuts 0.3 percent of our gross domestic product, and the stock market has dropped 900 points in the last 2 weeks. Now they want to hold the full faith and credit of our country hostage.

This is how it is hurting our Houston area economy:

Over 3,100 NASA employees at Johnson Space Center in Houston have been furloughed as a result of the House majority's refusal to keep the government open;

The Small Business Administration has closed its Houston office and is unable to issue grants and loans and services to small business owners;

Houston's regional VA center is closed. The government shutdown has forced VA to furlough 9,000 employees, delaying processing of the VA benefits.

If the shutdown continues into late October, payments for more than 3.8 million veterans will stop. We owe it to our Nation's veterans to make good on our commitments to them, and we can't do this with closed facilities.

#### OBAMACARE? NO, THANK YOU.

(Mr. DESANTIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to get my hands wrapped around this ObamaCare thing.

The policy is: the IRS is going to tax Americans unless they purchase a government-sanctioned product, which they may not want, off a government-run Web site, which costs \$634 million to create and does not work.

And what do they have to expect for that, once they go through that process and put their personal information there?

One disclaimer in one State's exchange goes as follows:

Any or all uses of this system and all files on this system may be intercepted, monitored, recorded, copied, audited, inspected, and disclosed to authorized State government and law enforcement personnel, as well as authorized officials of other agencies, both domestic and foreign.

Mr. Speaker, no, thank you.

#### IT IS TIME TO DO OUR JOBS

(Mr. POCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, last night, I spoke with a woman in Madison, a Federal employee who works as an air traffic controller and helps ensure the safety of thousands every day, and she asked me why should she be working

when she doesn't even know if or when she will get paid—and I didn't have a reasonable answer for her.

I received a letter from a woman in Baraboo who relies on Federal contracts to run her small business. She asked me how she is going to be able to make payroll this month if the government doesn't pay its bills—and I didn't have a reasonable answer for her.

I don't have a reasonable answer for why the Wisconsin National Guard can't conduct its training, why local small businesses can't grow their business and have loans through the Small Business Administration, and why 113,000 infants, children, and pregnant women can't receive nutrition assistance from the WIC program.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the GOP House leadership starts acting like responsible Representatives. Let's reopen government; let's prevent our country from defaulting; and then let's sit down and negotiate our budget, as Democrats have been requesting for the last 6 months. It is time to do our jobs.

#### NEW ENTITLEMENT SPENDING

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today just to ask this simple question to my colleagues here in the House and to our counterparts in the Senate, and that is simply this: Does it make sense for us to speed ahead with \$1.3 trillion in new entitlement spending when our country is in the middle of a debt crisis and Medicare and Social Security are on the brink of bankruptcy?

If the answer is "yes," then you can go home and explain that to your constituents. If the answer is "no," maybe we could explain why we are doing it.

#### STOP HURTING THE PEOPLE WE CAME HERE TO HELP

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I received this letter from Lori Sywensky. She wrote:

As a Commissioner of the Northampton County, Pennsylvania, Housing Authority, I wanted to make you aware that the County's Housing Authority issued layoff notices today to over half of its staff members because of financial uncertainty created by the government shutdown.

The next pay period would be payable on November 1, 2013, and since we cannot assure that there will be sufficient funds to honor that payroll, it has been determined that there is no legal choice other than to shut down operations of the Housing Choice Voucher Program and effect a temporary layoff beginning on Monday, October 14, 2013.

If not resolved soon, over 500 landlords will next be notified by the Housing Authority that rent payments will not be issued, resulting in lost income for them and potential eviction for 637 families.

That is what she wrote.